

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01538 260845Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 JUSE-00
L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
SP-02 /057 W
-----059845 270440Z /21

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FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SYCSTATE WASHDC 6495
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS 828
AMEMBASSY CAIROR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, IZ
SUBJECT: GOI SEEKS SUBSTITUTES FOR U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIERS

1. JULY 23 EDITIONPOF BAGHDAD DAILY AL-JUMHURIYA REPORTS
THAT BOARD MEETING OF STATE ORGANIZATION FOR DRUGS AND
MEDICAL SUPPLIES HAS ADOPTED A PROPOSAL TO SEEK
SUBSTITUTES FOR U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIERS. MEETING
WAS CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF HEALTH RIYAD IBRAHIM HUSSEIN.
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DECISION IS AIMED AT U.S. COMPANIES PRESENTLY SELLING
PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES TO IRAQ WHICH HAVE "RECENTLY"
REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH IRAQI BOYCOTT LAWS AS A RESULT
OF "LAWS PASSED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH IMPOSE
PENALTIES ON COMPANIES WHICH COMPLY WITH THE ARAB BOYCOTT."
REPORT STATES THAT IN FUTURE, NECESSARY SUPPLIES WILL BE
IMPORTED FROM "FRIENDLY STATES AND COMPANIES THAT ADHERE

TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT." THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, IN COOPERATION WITH THE PHARMACISTS' AND PHYSICIANS' UNIONS, WILL CIRCULATE A LIST OF THE AMERICAN PRODUCTS FOR WHICH SUBSTITUTES SHOULD BE FOUND.

2. HUSSEIN MADE A STATEMENT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO IN WHICH HE ACCUSED U.S. DRUG MANUFACTURERS OF UNJUSTIFIABLY INCREASING THE PRICES OF DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS. AT THAT TIME HE ALSO SENT CABLES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE COUNCIL OF ARAB HEALTH MINISTERS AND THE COUNCIL OF ARAB GULF HEALTH MINISTERS URGING THEM TO GIVE PRIORITY TO COUNTERING THE AMERICAN ANTI-BOYCOTT MEASURES AND TO TAKE A UNIFIED ARAB STANCE ON THIS ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: MINHEALTH HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN AMONG THE MOST RIGID OF GOI AGENCIES IN BOYCOTT ENFORCEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE TOLD USINT THAT COMPANIES WHICH HAVE DEALT WITH THEM IN THE PAST WILL BE CLEARED FOR FUTURE DEALINGS WITHOUT FURTHER REQUESTS FOR BOYCOTT INFORMATION. MOH HAS BEEN ORDERING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES BY DIRECT MAIL INVITATION TO U.S. SUPPLIERS. THESE INVITATIONS OFTEN CONTAIN BOYCOTT LANGUAGE AND REQUESTS FOR NEGATIVE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN. IT APPEARS MOH IS REACTING TO REFUSALS BY THESE SUPPLIERS TO PROVIDE THE BOYCOTT STATEMENTS AND CERTIFICATES. NEW DECISION APPEARS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STOP SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT BAN ON U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS BUT IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT GOI IS TAKING HARD LINE IN WAKE OF NEW EAA REGULATIONS. IRAQ WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO IMPORT SOME MEDICINES FROM AMERICAN SOURCES, BUT DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE A BLOW TO MANY SUPPLIERS.

4. FOR USDOC: WE HAVE NOT YET REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM GOI FOR HEALTH SERVICES MISSION IN MARCH 1979. UNLESS THERE IS SOME SOFTENING IN MOH ATTITUDE, IT APPEARS CHANCES OF APPROVAL ARE DIMINISHING.
PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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